



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

SOWINGS

June 2014

Library Commission Approves Change in Regional Library System Areas via the Nebraska Library Commission

At its meeting on May 16 the Nebraska Library Commission approved a change in Nebraska's regional library system structure based on recommendations from the Nebraska Regional Library Systems Configuration Task Force. As a result, Nebraska's current six regional service areas will be re-organized into four regional areas. The regional changes are expected to be in place no earlier than January 2015.

State and federal budget cuts in past years and flat funding in recent years prompted consideration of reducing the number of Nebraska regional library systems. Failure to secure increased funding for the current state biennium budget led to formation of the task force to develop recommendations for regional organization. The task force met several times before proposing regional options. The regional options were presented for discussion at the Library Commission's March 2014 meeting.

Library Commission staff, regional library system directors, and regional library system boards are working on implementation actions to create the new regional entities.

The Regional Library Systems Task Force Configuration report, questions and answers about regional changes, and the new regional map are available via the Library Commission's website: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/systems/>

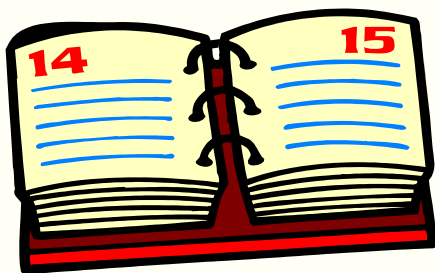
Photo of the Month



Morton-James in Nebraska City is participating in the "geek the library" campaign and asked to share one of their posters.

Inside this issue:

Sowings	1
Calendar	2
Summer Reading Scholarship	3
News Around the System	4-8
Board Minutes	9-11
Back Page	12



CALENDAR

June 2014

June 18th, 1873— Susan B. Anthony fined 100 dollars for attempting to vote in the Presidential election.

June 20th— SELS Board Meeting in Pawnee City.

June 21st— Summer Solstice

June 21st— Go Skateboarding Day

June 25th, 1947— *Diary of a Young Girl (The Diary of Anne Frank)* first published.

June 28th— Start of Ramadan

June 28th— Paul Bunyan Day. Celebrate the creator of the Grand Canyon, a man so massive that his lumberjack friends used to grease his pancake skillet by “ice skating” with butter. Don’t forget his loyal companion, Babe the Blue Ox.

June 29th— Camera Day, say cheese!

June 30th— Meteor Watch Day

July 2nd—World UFO Day

July 4th—Independence Day

July 10th—Teddy Bear Picnic Day

July 14th—National Ice Cream Day

July 22nd—Doonerism Spay (oops, I mean Spoonerism Day!)

July 25th— CASTL Meeting at Falls City Public Library & Art Center

July 27th—Bagpipe Appreciation Day

July 30, 1818—Emily Brontë born in Thornton, West Riding of Yorkshire, England

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

July 25—Falls City

August 21—Tecumseh

September 18—Shickley

October 17—Nebraska City

November 13—Friend

December 19—York

Got news to share?
Send it to
selsne@gmail.com and we'll
get it in the next newsletter!

Children Completing Nebraska Summer Reading Programs to Be Entered to Win More Than \$11,000 in NEST 529 Scholarships

NEST partners with libraries statewide on scholarship program, demonstrating that Books Are Just the Beginning at Nebraska libraries

Omaha, Neb. (June 5, 2014) – Nebraska’s 529 College Savings Plans (NEST), First National Bank of Omaha, Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg and the Nebraska Library Commission announced today the NEST Read to Win \$529! Drawing as part of library summer reading programs across the state. More than \$11,000 in NEST 529 College Savings scholarships and donations will be awarded.

Fifteen summer readers, five in each of Nebraska’s three congressional districts, will be randomly drawn from those who complete a summer reading program. Each winner will receive \$529 in a NEST college savings account. The library of each winner will receive a \$250 donation. To enter, children must register for the summer reading program at their libraries and complete the program as defined by their libraries.

“The Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office is happy to help sponsor the NEST Read to Win program this summer in local libraries all across Nebraska. Libraries are special places where children and teens can explore, learn, and dream. These early experiences in their local hometown libraries help children foster a love of reading and learning and set the stage for their years of formal education, from kindergarten through a four-year college, community college, or technical school. We here at NEST wish the very best for all the young readers in Nebraska and for their educational futures,” State Treasurer Stenberg said.

“NEST is proud to support the educational efforts of Nebraska’s children as well as the great work of the libraries statewide,” said Deborah Goodkin, Managing Director of NEST at First National Bank of Omaha, the NEST Program Manager. “With the libraries encouraging leisure reading during the summer, children can daydream and think of places they want to go and what they want to be. We hope this scholarship program encourages children and families to get involved in summer reading and complete the program with a little extra incentive for a possible scholarship.”

“Nebraska public libraries’ summer reading programs are great opportunities for children and teens to have the time to enjoy reading while maintaining and improving reading skills. They can also enjoy the many science-themed activities that are part of this year’s programs,” said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. “As places for learning, libraries are a natural partner for NEST—helping to illustrate the importance of children and their parents setting aside money for college education. The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to join with the Nebraska State Treasurer, First National Bank of Omaha, Regional Library Systems, and Nebraska public libraries to promote lifelong learning, financial education and planning.”

Winners will be drawn from the names of children who complete the summer reading program as submitted at the end of their programs by libraries throughout Nebraska. Winners will be announced during college savings month in September.

For official scholarship rules, visit the NEST College Savings Plans at www.NEST529.com, the State Treasurer's Office at www.treasurer.org/cs/ or the Nebraska Library Commission at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>.

{News Around the System}

Beatrice Public Library begins renovation

Construction has begun for Beatrice Public Library's \$1.5 million renovation. A temporary plastic covered room has sprung up on the first floor, hiding the large hole they cut in the floor for the new stairway.

This project has been funded totally by donations, including a few trusts.

The renovated space will include room for an art collection and a new location for their Heritage room.



Above: The "before" picture.



Above Left: the temporary workspace being set up where the stairway will be installed.

Directly Above: The floor cutaway to make the stairwell.

Left: Looking up at the stairwell cutaway from the basement.



{News Around the System}

Real Robots in Seward

Seward Memorial Library hopes that there are no “Fizzes or Booms” in the large room where UNL Extension Educator, Dennis Kahl is helping children in grades 4-6 build robots. Dennis has supplied teams with a kit containing the tools for creating a robot. The children will use the information he shares to construct a robot out of special Legos during two afternoon sessions. Dennis also has provided computer laptops to program the robots. By the end of the program, the kids will know how to program their robots to move forward, backward, and turn. The library is thankful for their partnership with the UNL Extension so the children have hands on experiences to remember their scientific summer at the library.



Overdrive one-on-ones at Palmyra



Scott Childers, Southeast Library Systems Administrator, assists Palmyra Memorial Library patron Winnie Dowding in setting up her e-reader device for Nebraska OverDrive. Winnie is among the increasing number of library patrons who have turned to Nebraska OverDrive to meet her reading needs.

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off at Plattsmouth

CAPOW, UNO's Chemistry and Physics on Wheels, wowed an audience of 206 children and parents at the Plattsmouth Public Library on Tuesday, June 3. This kick-off event featured fun facts and lots of experiments. Dr. Dan Sullivan used his scientific "magic" to create green flames and red flames and to make elephant toothpaste. Most kids and adults covered their ears when he warned of exploding balloons. The kids cringed, waved arms, covered their heads, and laughed when a fire extinguisher was discharged over their heads. They also enjoyed feeling the cold breeze from liquid nitrogen being poured on the floor in front of them.

The library has incorporated this year's theme, "Fizz, Boom, READ!", into the main events each week. Besides having a craft day each week, the library's main events also involve making "stuff". Children will create homemade puffy paint, finger paints, moon dough, bubble wands, and shaving cream among other things. One of the experiments involves putting a straw through a potato. At the end of the program, the children will each get a brochure with the recipes for the things they've made.



Dr. Dan Sullivan making "elephant toothpaste".



Former Lincoln Schools employee writes children's book

A former Lincoln Northeast AV tech, Travis Bossard, left LPS a year ago and started dedicating his full life to a book project: Adventures of Oskar & Klaus. It's a collaboration too. Travis wrote the story with his friend Mick, and then they started working with an illustrator who lives in Russia! They launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for the illustration costs and the printing. It was a big success. You should check out the video if you haven't already. (Oskar's video has been on the Ellen DeGeneres show.)

[Oskar & Klaus Kickstarter](#)

He's actually already been asked about doing some presentations at a couple elementary schools in town once the book is out in the fall. He's pretty excited about that and would love to do more throughout the first semester.

The theme is about seeking out friends who may have a disability and boldly engaging with them and welcoming them into your life. It seems that lots of kids miss out on awesome friendships with a classmate that is either blind, deaf or different in some way because they simply don't know how to confidently interact with them as peers. Oskar's life illustrates that while he may do a few things differently, he still has the same curiosity and desires that most anybody else has. He isn't to be pitied because to him he's totally normal! In fact, he thinks he's pretty awesome. So should you. So, that's the message. It's one that many continue to correct in my their own life.



{SELS Friends}

Renew your SELS Friends membership

Hello all,

This is your annual reminder that dues can be paid any time for the 7/1/14-6/30/15 year, if you are interested in remaining a SELS Friends member and are not a lifetime one already. If you are not sure of your status, you can check it at <http://selsfriends.org/members.html>. Checks can be sent to the address below or to the SELS office.

Your payment of dues helps support SELS in a variety of ways, plus it gets you reduced prices to events and other perks!

Thanks!

SELS Friends Board
Becky, Tom, Lisa, Jan and Karen

New SELS Office & New Assistant

The Southeast Library System office has moved!

We were able to work out a deal that gains us a larger office across the hallway from our previous location. The new office suite gives us more space to store book kits & Ellison machine dies, as well as a small conference room.

We'll be holding an open house in the near future; once we get everything into its proper place and do a little bit of touch-ups in the conference room.

Helping us break in the new space will be our new Administrative Assistant, Wendy Mackey. She'll start on June 16.



{SELS Office}

**Southeast Library System Meeting
February 21, 2014
Geneva Public Library, Geneva, Nebraska**

Board Members Present: Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library); Carolyn Bennett (Beatrice Public Library); Rebecca Bernthal (University of Nebraska-Lincoln); Ruth Carlock (Levitt Library, York College); Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Aimee Morlan (Weeping Water Public Library); Dorothy Willis (Pawnee City Public Library); and Glenda Willnerd (Palmyra Memorial Library).

Also Present: Scott Childers (SELS Director); William Bragg (SELS Administrative Assistant); Laura Johnson (Nebraska Library Commission).

Board Members Absent: Kent Munster (Clark Enersen Partners); Sabrina Riley (Union College); Robin Sugden (Freeman Public School); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora).

Meeting was called to order by Dorothy Willis at 10:07.

I Consent Agenda

- A. December 5, 2013 Minutes
- B. Transaction Report

Karen moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. Rebecca seconded, and the motion carried. The Consent Agenda was approved.

II Budget Update

The cost of the summer reading workshop was a bit over what they thought they would bring in. The equipment line is over the budget due to the equipment that was purchased. The Nebraska Library Commission is sending out \$1200 to help pay for equipment. Instead of individual equipment requests, they are appropriating an amount for this. The tablet SELS has may be updated. Windstream bills have been a bit higher than in the past years. Other possibilities like Time Warner are being checked. The heating bill is up too.

III Executive Director Report

Scott said there was a change in his System Activity Report. He did not make it to Shickley or Geneva yet. He will be going to Shickley in two weeks and to Geneva in one week. Scott has been working with people making plans to hold an event promoting the Declaration of Rights to Libraries in Lincoln. He has worked with people at UNL and they have dropped out of the planning group, but they may still participate. They want libraries of all types in the city of Lincoln to participate. Scott has been working with SolutionOne to see if it would be possible to upgrade the current copier and/or adjust the current maintenance plan to better fit usage. He does have a quote, but it didn't look like they would save money either way so he is looking at other options. In the past, the office was doing more professional type printing. Now they could get a printer somewhere else for less money that would handle their needs. Apollo will be used in the office. Scott and Will have been straightening and reorganizing the office. The goal is to have more records that are kept electronically so space isn't needed for as many file cabinets and so they can be found more readily.

IV Report from Regional Systems Task Force

The Task Force met on February 10th. They prepared a recommendation to go to the Commissioners for their March 14th meeting. The recommendation was for either 4 or 5 systems, largely based on the number of public libraries and the number of square miles.

They didn't all agree on what was the best way to go. There would be more money for each individual system with fewer total systems. With larger systems things will have to be done differently. The question is how will we serve the libraries with a larger area? It is possible the Commission may extend current contracts to cover a transition period of less than a year. More travel will be required. At this point all logistical discussion is speculation. The question was asked whether the Board members whose appointment will end in 2014 would be willing to stay on the board until the new plans are made. This would affect Becky, Karen, and Jan. Since these systems are all 501c3 it will be necessary to look at the legal requirements. Legal advice will probably be needed. No one expects the Commissioners to make a decision on March 14th. It will probably be June before we will have any solid decisions. What are some things we need to be thinking about? How do we not drag our old baggage into the new systems? How do we use more technology, but still pro-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

vide that personal touch? Each system will have some of the counties they had before along with some new counties. The taskforce had 5 meetings and worked very hard to come up with a plan that would work. If we have ideas, we are to contact Dorothy or Scott and they will pass it along.

V Annual Meeting Ideas & Discussion

We need to think about what we want to do for the Annual Meeting and how we want to approach it. In the past, it has had a more laid back, educational/entertainment session along with the board meeting. Other systems make it a training day. We expect the June meeting to be filled with all sorts of things. It is scheduled to be at Pawnee City where there is a museum. Becky suggested we not plan it for just a business meeting. Getting our business done will be more important especially if we may be changing to quarterly meetings. We will have to decide how to cover this time period with officers. Karen would have no problem with the present officers going on for 6 months while we are in this process. It was suggested this be tabled until at least April or June.

VI SELS Friends' Report

The Friends have three private movies scheduled on the calendar. Divergent will be shown on the 22nd of March at the same place and same price as before. Mockingjay & Hobbit will be shown later. Aged to Perfection is on Thursday, April 24th at 5:00 o'clock. The Silent Auction is the best fund raiser for Aged to Perfection. Items can be taken to the System office a week before so they can be put online. A person doesn't have to be present to bid. Tom Bassett will be the auctioneer. The money received from the Book Fair was around \$140. The Book Fair was handled like Hilary handled it in the past. Since there was a little surplus in the SELS budget from not having a Coordinator all year, Scott suggested that instead of making a request this year we leave the usual annual disbursement with the Friends to let it grow.

VII NLC Report

Big Talk from Small Libraries Online Conference is set for February 28, 2014. Attend if you can.

The 2014 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, Agatha Awards, and Dilys Award winners will be announced in the near future.

United for Libraries has received funding from the Neal-Schuman Foundation to support library advocacy at the local level for libraries with "troubled budgets." The grants are for advocacy campaigns to restore, increase, or save threatened library budgets. The Library Foundation staff, board members, volunteers, etc. are invited to participate in the United for Libraries electronic discussion group focused on topics of interest to library Foundations. They want to get the word out about it. The discussion group is a place to talk about Foundation business. The 21st Century Librarian Scholarship students have been announced.

Lib2Gov Registrations may be full, but the information may be archived. Lib2Gov may be a useful tool when helping patrons with e-government services in your library. Librarians can subscribe to the Library Commission blog so it will come into their box. Interesting information is being put in it.

A question was asked about the staffing at the Library Commission. At this point it is all stable. Everyone is pretty busy. The Talking Book and Brail service has a lot of space in the basement at the Library Commission. The basement leaks and there are bugs. They spoke to the Landlord and will get space on the main floor across from the lobby. There has to be a recording studio built first. This service sends a lot of mail so it will be nice to be on the main floor.

VIII Committee Meetings

Everyone decided to discuss the committee agenda together as a group.

IX Committee Reports and Executive Committee Policy Review Report

Marketing Committee

Sabrina has a student helping her that is very good at putting together brochures. This student has prepared a brochure for SELS. We examined the brochure. We need to have an SELS Logo and it needs to be more prominent than NEBRASKA Regional LiBrary Systems logo. There is extra space under Additional Services on the brochure.

WWW.SELSNE.ORG at the bottom in the black strip needs to be bolder. We could still start looking at a logo. The Friends offered to give a cash prize if we have a contest for a logo. There should be a Thank You note sent to Sabrina's student for the brochure. Scott will send one. The Front Porch award was mentioned. A reminder will be sent. So far nothing has been turned in. A library can nominate their self. The letters of support do not need to be from that community, but it is better if it comes from that community. When SELS gets a winner they will contact the winning library and decide when during Library Week the award will be given. The suggestion was made to have an Excel spread sheet of cake pans with a picture that libraries have available for checkout on the SELS site. A dye cut list would also be useful. March Madness is coming up.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

CE Committee

Scott handed out a list of possible Extravaganza topics. The group looked the topics over. Scott will run a survey to see who would be interested in which topics. There may be two sessions for popular topics. Becky requested that the State historical digitizing presentation include newspapers, etc. Obituaries are most needed by libraries from the newspapers. It might be possible to just digitize the obituaries. Newspaper paper soon crumbles. We are probably planning on 12 sessions depending on how many are offered twice. The various suggested topics were discussed and a few more were added. Becky suggested that if there are several topics that have a lot of interest, we might have a two day Extravaganza. Extravaganza will be held on May 15 at Seward.

A question was asked about Youth Services. A grant was received and SELS is working with Eastern on this. A question was asked about Colloquium. It needs topics that cross all types of libraries.

X Reports from around the System (if time allows)

Carolyn: Bids were submitted and have to be in by March 3. Things are kind of chaotic.

Rebecca: The Board of regents approved a learning commons which means moving to accommodate this. They will be having a satellite branch library somewhere in Lincoln. She hasn't heard where this will be. They expect there to be a satellite library for about 10 years to give them time to decide what to keep and what to dispose of. The East campus library is looking to do somewhat the same thing later. There is a lot of chaos. The target date to have things moved out is early summer with the project to be completed in about a year.

Ruth: The Higher Learning Commission visit went well. The semester started off good. We are looking forward to Spring Break in March. Ruth participated with 6 other librarians to prepare the book: *RDA Workbook: Learning the basics of resource description and access*. It is available to help librarians learn to catalog using the new RDA rules.

Karen: They have been doing paperwork for erate, etc. An Adopt a Book is being planned. Karen received an anonymous \$100 gift card from Barnes & Noble.

Becky: They have the same busywork. They have been focusing on National Library Week plans which they will hold April 5-12th. Phil Jameson will be coming on Saturday, someone else on Monday, book reviews on Thursday, etc. Most of the outside speakers coming in for summer have been planned. A clerk will leave after the first of June. They plan to hire someone again in the fall.

Aimee: They have been doing paper work. They have a small staff for planning. Their summer reading is almost planned. There was a discussion about using volunteers in the library and keeping patrons confidentiality. For accreditation a library must have a paid person at all times.

Dorothy: They merged the foundation and friends groups. They haven't changed the names due to the 501c3 status. The Monsanto grant goes to a farmer and they decide what community organization gets it. It was worth \$2500, and this is the second time the library has received the money. It will be used to subsidize a computer class at the community college. They received another grant too.

We thanked Ruth at Geneva Public Library for hosting us.

XI Adjournment

Carolyn moved that we adjourn at 12:26 p.m.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

- June 20, 2014 – Pawnee City Public Library

Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •
Richardson • Saline •
Seward • Thayer • York

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*"We adore chaos because we love
to produce order."*

-M.C. Escher

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: www.selsne.org.) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.